

Friends of Prospect Park

(formerly the Masonic Hospital property)

The *Friends of Prospect Park* is composed of a group of citizens interested in establishing and maintaining a passive recreation and garden area in Prospect Park.

Purpose:

To oversee the improvement and maintenance of the area between Prospect and Boylston Streets in Shrewsbury to be known as *Prospect Park*.

Background

This parcel of seventy acres was purchased from the Masons in 1976. The hospital was razed in 1979, and little has been done there since. The Water Department maintains water tanks on the western boundary of the park, and the Parks and Cemetery Commission has set aside approximately one-third of the area across from the town cemetery for possible cemetery expansion.

In 2003, the Shrewsbury Garden Club approached the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Cemetery Commission to present a plan for opening up this valuable town asset for passive recreation. Both agreed to sponsor such a move. During the fall, the Garden Club had poison ivy sprayed so that work could begin on cleaning up existing trails. In October, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall to inform other groups of the plans. Many people signed up to be a part of the *Friends of Prospect Park*. In November, Shrewsbury Brownies planted daffodils at the entrance on Prospect Street. A first work day was set for December 2003, but a snowstorm cancelled the event.

Future Plans

- Mark existing trails – hiking, skiing, snowshoeing
- Establish and mark new trails
- Connect trails to the surrounding neighborhood and community
- Clear and improve vegetation
- Mark and maintain unique species of existing vegetation.
- Introduce new vegetation and low maintenance planting beds.
- Improve the property site as a wildlife habitat.
- Except those used for municipal purposes, restrict all motorized vehicles and cross-country bikes.
- Other possibilities: Restore the pergola, pool and garden areas. Establish a picnic area. Be open to suggestions from the town.

Membership in *Friends of Prospect Park*

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in maintaining this property. Activities will be guided by a Steering Committee. Contact Dot Perkins or Phil Hammond for more information.

Present Steering Committee members:

Co-chair: Phil Hammond	508-842-0447	Phammel@townisp.com	- Selectman
Co-chair: Dot Perkins	508-842-8629	dotrp@townisp.com	- Garden Club
Valerie Gannon	508-845-6364	GannonV@townisp.com	- Garden Club
Jan Hibson	508-842-4251	JanHibson@townisp.com	- Garden Club
Lucy Pupo	508-753-8283		- Garden Club
Dawn Shannon	508-842-8633		- Garden Club
Michael Struckus	978-422-8944		- Landscaper
Janet Trippi	508-845-9586	Jtrippi@townisp.com	- Garden Club